

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-10, 12-31 and 33-43 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 52-54 are amended to depend from claim 45. New claims 56-68 have been added and depend from claims 45, 47 and 50, which independent claims are allowed. No new matter has been added.

§ 102 Rejection

Claims 27, 30, 31, 33-35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Darnand (US 5,100,317). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite allowance of the application, Applicant has canceled claims 27, 30, 31, 33-35 and 37, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

§103 Rejections

Claims 27, 30-35, 37 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Darnand in view of Westdyk (US 5,360,337) and Ferrell (US 5,007,829). Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 12-18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 39, 43 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Darnand in view of Marshall (US 3,702,027). Claims 8, 9, 19, 25, 28, 29, 40 and 52-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Darnand in view of Marshall (US 3,702,027) and further in view of Huffman (US 4,548,581). Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Darnand in view of Marshall and further in view of Dew (US 3,436,827). Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Darnand in view of Marshall and further in view of Huffman (US 4,548,581). Claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Darnand in view of Dew. Claims 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Darnand in view of Jinoian (US 4,957,435).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. However, in an effort to expedite allowance of the application, Applicant has canceled claims 1-10, 12-31, and 33-43, thereby rendering these rejections moot. Applicant does not concede the correctness of these rejections.

New Claims

New claims 56-68 are supported by original claims 45-55, Figures 2, 3 and 13-15, and the description of those Figures in the present specification. No new matter has been added. Applicant submits that claims 56-58 are allowable for at least the reason they are each dependent upon an allowable base claim.

In view of the above, Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Please contact Applicant's attorney below if a phone conference would be of assistance in any way.

Respectfully submitted,



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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joshua N. Randall", written over a horizontal line.

Joshua N. Randall
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JNR:ac